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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:31:53 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

April 14, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1783 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: FALL OF TIKRIT SYRIA IS NEXT U.S.
MOTIVES FOR WAR
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 01783

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: AMB DCM ECON POL
Laser1:
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:KVANDEVATE
DRAFTED: PAO:AHOSHAN
CLEARED: PAO:TPONCE

VZCZCADI392
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC
DE RUEHAD #1783/01 1041108
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 141108Z APR 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9409
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0638
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0694
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 001783

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: FALL OF TIKRIT SYRIA IS NEXT U.S.
MOTIVES FOR WAR

1. SUMMARY: THE FALL OF TIKRIT TO COALITION FORCES, THE IN

IRAQI CITIES, AND USG WARNINGS TO SYRIA DOMINATED COVERAGE IN UAE MEDIA. AN "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIAL ALLEGED THAT IRAQ WAS FIRST BUT SYRIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE NEXT. AN "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIAL COMMENTED ON SADDAM'S TORTURE CHAMBERS BUT NOTED THAT THEY ARE ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. DR. ANWAR GHARGHASH IN "AL ITTIHAD" DECLARED THAT THE WAR IS A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ARABS TO CHANGE THEIR RECENT HISTORY OF HYPOCRISY, CORRUPTION, OPPRESSION, AND SETBACKS. IN A RARE OP-ED, UAE NATIONAL GULF NEWS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ABDUL HAMID AHMAD PROCLAIMED THAT AUTHORITARIAN ARAB REGIMES MUST PURSUE DEMOCRATIC REFORMS AND STOP USING THE PALESTINIANS AS AN EXCUSE TO JUSTIFY THE REPRESSION OF THEIR PEOPLES. END SUMMARY.

12. COMMENTING ON THE ARAB CHANCE TO ELIMINATE THE BLACK STAINS IN ITS HISTORY, UAE NATIONAL DR. ANWAR GARGASH WROTE IN SEMI-OFFICIAL ABU DHABI-BASED ARABIC DAILY "AL-ITTIHAD" ON 4/14:

"... OUR ARAB WORLD IS FACED WITH A HISTORICAL CHANCE THAT SYMBOLIZES THE END OF THE ARAB HISTORY AS WE KNOW IT - A HISTORY OF HYPOCRISY, CORRUPTION, OPPRESSION, AND SETBACKS DURING RECENT DECADES. IT IS TIME TO REPLACE THE VOID SLOGANS AND ILLUSIONS THAT OCCURRED IN LOSING THE ARAB COMPASS, WITH A WORKING METHOD TO SANCTIFY HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO GUARANTEE POLITICAL RIGHTS AND A DECENT LIFE FOR EVERY ARAB."

13. DESCRIBING THE SITUATION IN IRAQ AS A "FIRE" THAT WILL SPREAD TO OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY SYRIA, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 4/14:

"... EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK'S WARNING OF A CIVIL WAR IN IRAQ SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED AND DEALT WITH ... THE FIRE THREATENING THE REGION, STARTING WITH THE ONE IN IRAQ, OPENS THE DOOR TO FEARS THAT ARE NOT ELIMINATED WITH AMERICAN PROMISES AND REASSURANCES THAT WASHINGTON SHOWERS (US) WITH DEMOCRACY, DEVELOPMENT, AND MORE. THE EVIL COMPANIES AND ISRAELI INTERESTS THAT CONTROL AMERICAN DECISIONS THAT REFUTE ALL RUMORS REGARDING THIS SITUATION ..."

14. COMMENTING ON SADDAM'S TREATMENT OF HIS PEOPLE, "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 4/14:

"... WHAT THE WORLD SAW IN THE VAULTS, SECRET TUNNELS, AND TORTURE EQUIPMENT IN THE HOUSES OF EVIL, IN ADDITION TO THE GRAVES, GROUP GRAVES, AND THE REMAINS OF UNKNOWN PEOPLE, IS ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG FLOATING ON THE SURFACE, MADE OF BODIES AND THE SUFFERING OF MILLIONS OVER THE LAST 35 YEARS. THE SOULS OF THE VICTIMS ARE STILL FLYING OVER WHERE THEY WERE KILLED, AND THE ECHOES OF THE MOANS OF THE TORTURED STILL LOOM IN MANY HOUSES."

15. NOTING THAT THE WORLD IS ASKING THE COALITION FORCES TO END THE CHAOS IN IRAQ INSTEAD OF ENDING THEIR OCCUPATION, "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 4/13:

"... THE ORGANIZED CHAOS IN IRAQI CITIES DURING THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS IS ONLY BUT A DROP IN THE SEA OF THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE, IN WHICH THE U.S. AND UK WANT IRAQ TO DROWN IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THEIR OCCUPATION ..."

16. CRITICIZING THE ARAB POLICY TOWARDS IRAQ AND COMPARING IT TO THE FRENCH POLICY, DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED ARABIC DAILY "AL-BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED 4/13:

"... THE ARAB LEAGUE AND ARAB COUNTRIES ARE REQUESTED TO MOVE TOWARDS PROTECTING NOT ONLY IRAQ AND SYRIA, BUT ALSO ALL ARAB COUNTRIES THAT MIGHT SOONER OR LATER FIND THEMSELVES AN AMERICAN TARGET ..."

17. COMMENTING ON THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ, "AL-ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 4/13:

"... REBUILDING A NEW IRAQ AFTER ALL THIS DESTRUCTION WILL NOT HAPPEN EXCEPT WITH THE HANDS OF ITS PEOPLE AND ON THE BASIS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL POWERS AND POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL GROUPS IN THE IRAQI COMMUNITY. THIS IS THE BATTLE FOR IRAQIS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE IRAQ."

18. IN A CLOSING STATEMENT IN "AL BAYAN," SALIM WROTE:

"THE LOOTING THAT THE IRAQI CITIES ARE WITNESSING UNDER THE EYES AND EARS OF THE AMERICAN OCCUPYING FORCES IS DONE BY ROBBERS AND GANGS ... THIS REVEALS THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MOTTO OF LIBERATION ESPOUSED BY WASHINGTON TO JUSTIFY ITS ATTACKS AGAINST IRAQ. THIS IS A LIBERATION OF IRAQI CITIES FROM SECURITY AND LEAVES THE THESE CITIES FOR ROBBERS TO LOOT, EXCEPT FOR THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND OIL REFINERIES AND WELLS, WHICH HAVE THEIR OWN LOOTERS WHO COME FROM OVERSEAS."

19. UNDER THE HEADLINE, "THE IRAQI TREMOR AND ITS KEY LESSON FOR ALL," UAE NATIONAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ABDUL HAMID AHMAD WROTE IN AN OP-ED IN EXPATRIATE-ORIENTED ENGLISH DAILY "GULF NEWS" ON 4/14: "THE COLLAPSE OF THE IRAQI BA'ATH PARTY HAS LONG BEEN ANTICIPATED ... THE REGIME SUPPRESSED FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL FIELDS - IN FACT, ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE ... THE IRAQI EXPERIENCE IS SIMILAR TO THE EXPERIENCE OF ALGERIA, SYRIA, YEMEN, AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES RULED BY SUCH FORCES AND NATIONAL PARTIES THAT ARE CHARACTERIZED BY TOTALITARIANISM AND RULE BY ONE ... SINGLE PARTY MONOPOLY SUPPRESSES ALL TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND ONLY LEADS TO THE SUFFOCATION OF PEOPLE, POLITICALLY AND SOCIALLY. THE (BA'ATH) PARTY'S ACTIONS AND THE MONOPOLY OF POWER BY AN UNQUALIFIED CLIQUE - EXCEPT FOR ITS INSATIABLE DESIRE TO TERRORISE IT OWN PEOPLE AND NEIGHBORS - IS A STRONG LESSON THAT ARABS SHOULD LEARN FROM."

"... IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE IS JUST AN EXCUSE FOR THESE REGIMES TO JUSTIFY THE REPRESSION OF THEIR PEOPLE AND THEIR MONOPOLY OF POWER. IT IS AS IF PALESTINE CAN ONLY BE LIBERATED THROUGH REPRESSION SIMPLY BECAUSE THESE REGIMES HAVE CLAIMED DEMOCRACY WILL NOT ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, THIS DREAM."

"WE SHOULD NOT START LOOKING FOR EXPLANATIONS AS TO WHY IT HAPPENED, BECAUSE DICTATORSHIPS CAN ONLY LEAD TO DESTRUCTION AS WAS THE CASE IN IRAQ ... THE TIME HAS COME FOR US ARABS TO REALIZE AND LEARN FROM WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN IRAQ."

WAHBA